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10/657,885	09/09/2003	Michael L. Dobson	DOBS/0001	2624

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EXAMINER
HAWKINS, CHERYL N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1734	

DATE MAILED: 10/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/657,885	DOBSON, MICHAEL L	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Cheryl N Hawkins	1734	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-31* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-31* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *9* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *09 September 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *12/16/03*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: "actuator" in line 1 of the claim should be changed to --apparatus--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 4-6, 9-12, 15, 18-20, 23-26, 29, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heaton (US 4,452,663). As to Claim 1, Heaton discloses an apparatus (Figure 1, wall board taping apparatus 10) for applying a material from a roll (Figure 1, roll 44) to a surface (Figure 2, wall board 50) comprising a frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) for rotatably supporting a roll of material, the frame (Figure 1, frame member 16) having an opening through which material may be dispensed from the roll; a roller (Figure 1, press roller 22) carried by the frame adjacent the opening for pressing material dispensed through the opening from a roll rotatably supported by the frame against the surface; a brake (Figure 1, brake member 48) supported by the frame for applying a braking force to a roll of material rotatably supported by the frame, thereby preventing material from being dispensed through the opening

from the roll; an elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) connected to the frame; and an actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) connected to the elongated handle for remotely actuating the brake.

As to Claims 4 and 18, Heaton discloses an apparatus which includes a shaft (Figure 1, shaft 46) carried by the frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) for rotatably supporting a roll of tape (Figure 1, roll 44).

As to Claims 5 and 19, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the frame includes substantially parallel sidewalls (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) defining a space within which the shaft (Figure 1, shaft 46) and the tape roll (Figure 2, roll 44) are carried.

As to Claims 6 and 20, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the space defines a pathway for the tape to move from a roll (Figure 1, roll 44) rotatably supported by the frame to the opening for dispensing (Figure 1, frame member 16).

As to Claims 9 and 23, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) is connected to the frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) at one of its ends and is connected to the actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) adjacent another of its ends.

As to Claims 10 and 24, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) comprises a lever pivotally connected to the elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) opposite the frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) and a linkage (Figure 1, cable members 52 and 54) connecting the lever to the brake (Figure 1, brake member 48).

As to Claims 11 and 25, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the elongated handle (Figure 2, handle 20) is tubular and the linkage (Figure 1, cable members 52 and 54) includes an elongated link connected to the lever and extending through at least a substantial portion of the elongated handle.

As to Claims 12 and 26, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the elongated link (Figure 1, cable members 52 and 54) comprises a cable.

As to Claim 15, Heaton discloses an apparatus (Figure 1, wall board taping apparatus 10) for applying tape from a roll (Figure 2, roll 44) to a seam between abutting sheets of wall board (Figure 2, wall board 50) comprising a frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) for rotatably supporting a roll of tape, the frame having an opening (Figure 1, frame member 16) through which tape may be dispensed from the roll; a roller (Figure 1, press roller 22) carried by the frame adjacent the opening for pressing tape dispensed through the opening from a roll rotatably supported by the frame against a seam between abutting sheets of wall board; a brake (Figure 1, brake member 48) supported by the frame for applying a braking force to a roll of tape rotatably supported by the frame, thereby preventing tape from being dispensed through the opening from the roll; an elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) connected to the frame; and an actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) connected to the elongated handle for remotely actuating the brake.

As to Claim 29, Heaton discloses a method of applying material from a roll (Figure 2, roll 44) to a surface (Figure 2, wall board 50) comprising the steps of loading a roll of material into a dispensing frame (Figure 1, wall board taping apparatus 10) mounted on an elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) and having an opening (Figure 1, frame member 16) and a pressing roller (Figure 1, press roller 22); feeding an end of the material from the roll through the frame opening; using the handle and the pressing roller, pressing the end of the material against the surface; using the handle and pressing roller, moving the frame along the surface to dispense the material from the roll through the frame opening and apply the material over the surface;

remotely applying a braking force to the material roll from a location on the handle opposite the frame to prevent material from being dispensed from the roll (column 2, lines 7-12 and 33-52).

As to Claim 31, Heaton discloses a method wherein the material is tape and the surface is a seam between abutting sheets of wallboard (column 2, lines 9-12).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-6, 9-20, and 23-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heaton (US 4,452,663) in view of O'Mara et al. (US 6,540,856). As to Claim 1, Heaton discloses an apparatus (Figure 1, wall board taping apparatus 10) for applying a material from a roll (Figure 1, roll 44) to a surface (Figure 2, wall board 50) comprising a frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) for rotatably supporting a roll of material, the frame (Figure 1, frame member 16) having an opening through which material may be dispensed from the roll; a roller (Figure 1, press roller 22) carried by the frame adjacent the opening for pressing material dispensed through the opening from a roll rotatably supported by the frame against the surface; a brake (Figure 1, brake member 48) supported by the frame for applying a braking force to a roll of material rotatably supported by the frame, thereby preventing material from being dispensed through the opening from the roll; an elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) connected to the

frame; and an actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) connected to the elongated handle for remotely actuating the brake.

As to Claims 2 and 16, Heaton discloses using a knife to cut the tape below the roller (column 2, lines 50-52), but does not disclose an apparatus which includes a cutting member having a cutting edge. The disadvantages of manually using a knife to cut the tape, i.e. risk of injury and the awkwardness of handling the taping apparatus with one hand and the knife with the other, would have been readily apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art. O'Mara et al. disclose an apparatus (Figure 2, dispenser 11) for applying a material from a roll (Figure 2, roll of tape 17) to a surface which includes a cutting member (Figure 2, cutter bar 51) having a cutting edge, the cutting member being carried by the frame adjacent an opening for cutting material dispensed through the opening from a roll rotatably supported by the frame (column 3, lines 31-37). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Heaton to include a cutting member having a cutting edge as suggested by O'Mara et al. to provide the device with automated cutting.

As to Claims 3 and 17, the references as combined (see O'Mara et al.) disclose an apparatus wherein the cutting member (Figure 2, cutter bar 51) is pivotally mounted to the frame for rotation of the cutting edge into engagement with tape material dispensed through the opening from a roll rotatably supported by the frame (column 3, lines 31-37).

As to Claims 4 and 18, Heaton discloses an apparatus which includes a shaft (Figure 1, shaft 46) carried by the frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) for rotatably supporting a roll of tape (Figure 1, roll 44).

As to Claims 5 and 19, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the frame includes substantially parallel sidewalls (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) defining a space within which the shaft (Figure 1, shaft 46) and the roll (Figure 2, roll 44) are carried.

As to Claims 6 and 20, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the space defines a pathway for material to move from a roll (Figure 1, roll 44) rotatably supported by the frame to the opening for dispensing (Figure 1, frame member 16).

As to Claims 9 and 23, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) is connected to the frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) at one of its ends and is connected to the actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) adjacent another of its ends.

As to Claims 10 and 24, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) comprises a lever pivotally connected to the elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) opposite the frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) and a linkage (Figure 1, cable members 52 and 54) connecting the lever to the brake (Figure 1, brake member 48).

As to Claims 11 and 25, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the elongated handle (Figure 2, handle 20) is tubular and the linkage (Figure 1, cable members 52 and 54) includes an elongated link connected to the lever and extending through at least a substantial portion of the elongated handle.

As to Claims 12 and 26, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the elongated link (Figure 1, cable members 52 and 54) comprises a cable.

As to Claims 13 and 27, the references as combined (see O'Mara et al.) disclose an apparatus wherein the actuator (Figure 1, trigger 63) is connected to the elongated handle for

remotely rotating the cutting edge (Figure 2, cutter bar 51) into engagement with the material dispensed through the opening from a roll rotatably supported by the frame (column 4, lines 7-8).

As to Claims 14 and 28, the references as combined disclose an apparatus wherein the actuator comprises a lever pivotally connected to the elongated handle opposite the frame and a linkage connecting the lever to the brake (Heaton - Figure 2, trigger 58, cable members 52 and 54, brake member 48) and the cutting member (O'Mara et al. - Figure 1, trigger 63 and Figure 2, electrical switch assembly 61, cutting bar 51).

As to Claim 15, Heaton discloses an apparatus (Figure 1, wall board taping apparatus 10) for applying tape from a roll (Figure 2, roll 44) to a seam between abutting sheets of wall board (Figure 2, wall board 50) comprising a frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) for rotatably supporting a roll of tape, the frame having an opening (Figure 1, frame member 16) through which tape may be dispensed from the roll; a roller (Figure 1, press roller 22) carried by the frame adjacent the opening for pressing tape dispensed through the opening from a roll rotatably supported by the frame against a seam between abutting sheets of wall board; a brake (Figure 1, brake member 48) supported by the frame for applying a braking force to a roll of tape rotatably supported by the frame, thereby preventing tape from being dispensed through the opening from the roll; an elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) connected to the frame; and an actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) connected to the elongated handle for remotely actuating the brake.

As to Claim 29, Heaton discloses a method of applying material from a roll (Figure 2, roll 44) to a surface (Figure 2, wall board 50) comprising the steps of loading a roll of material into a dispensing frame (Figure 1, wall board taping apparatus 10) mounted on an elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) and having an opening (Figure 1, frame member 16) and a pressing roller

(Figure 1, press roller 22); feeding an end of the material from the roll through the frame opening; using the handle and the pressing roller, pressing the end of the material against the surface; using the handle and pressing roller, moving the frame along the surface to dispense the material from the roll through the frame opening and apply the material over the surface; remotely applying a braking force to the material roll from a location on the handle opposite the frame to prevent material from being dispensed from the roll (column 2, lines 7-12 and 33-52).

As to Claim 30, Heaton discloses using a knife to cut the tape below the roller (column 2, lines 50-52), but does not disclose a step of remotely applying a cutting force to the material. O'Mara et al. discloses a method of applying material from a roll to a surface which includes a step of remotely applying a cutting force to the material adjacent the opening from a location on the handle opposite the frame to separate the material applied to the surface from the frame (Figure 2, cutter bar 51; Figure 1, trigger 63; column 4, lines 7-8).

As to Claim 31, Heaton discloses a method wherein the material is tape and the surface is a seam between abutting sheets of wallboard (column 2, lines 9-12).

6. Claims 1, 4-7, 9-12, 15, 18-21, 23-26, 29, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heaton (US 4,452,663) in view of Shi (US 5,236,540). As to Claim 1, Heaton discloses an apparatus (Figure 1, wall board taping apparatus 10) for applying a material from a roll (Figure 1, roll 44) to a surface (Figure 2, wall board 50) comprising a frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) for rotatably supporting a roll of material, the frame (Figure 1, frame member 16) having an opening through which material may be dispensed from the roll; a roller (Figure 1, press roller 22) carried by the frame adjacent the opening for pressing material

dispensed through the opening from a roll rotatably supported by the frame against the surface; a brake (Figure 1, brake member 48) supported by the frame for applying a braking force to a roll of material rotatably supported by the frame, thereby preventing material from being dispensed through the opening from the roll; an elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) connected to the frame; and an actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) connected to the elongated handle for remotely actuating the brake.

As to Claims 4 and 18, Heaton discloses an apparatus which includes a shaft (Figure 1, shaft 46) carried by the frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) for rotatably supporting a roll of tape (Figure 1, roll 44).

As to Claims 5 and 19, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the frame includes substantially parallel sidewalls (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) defining a space within which the shaft (Figure 1, shaft 46) and the roll (Figure 2, roll 44) are carried.

As to Claims 6 and 20, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the space defines a pathway for material to move from a roll (Figure 1, roll 44) rotatably supported by the frame to the opening for dispensing (Figure 1, frame member 16).

As to Claims 7 and 21, Heaton does not disclose an apparatus wherein the frame includes a lip adjacent the opening that is yieldably biased toward the roller. Shi discloses an apparatus for applying a material (Figure 4, tape 93) from a roll to a surface which includes a frame (Figure 4, frame 10) having a lip (Figure 4, panel 42) adjacent an opening that is yieldably biased towards a roller (Figure 4, roller 21) for assuring at least a portion of material fed to the opening from the roll rotatably supported by the frame remains at the opening. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of

Heaton to include a lip adjacent the opening that is yieldably biased toward the roller as suggested by Shi to ensure that the material is retained in a position required for effective dispensing.

As to Claims 9 and 23, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) is connected to the frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) at one of its ends and is connected to the actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) adjacent another of its ends.

As to Claims 10 and 24, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) comprises a lever pivotally connected to the elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) opposite the frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) and a linkage (Figure 1, cable members 52 and 54) connecting the lever to the brake (Figure 1, brake member 48).

As to Claims 11 and 25, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the elongated handle (Figure 2, handle 20) is tubular and the linkage (Figure 1, cable members 52 and 54) includes an elongated link connected to the lever and extending through at least a substantial portion of the elongated handle.

As to Claims 12 and 26, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the elongated link (Figure 1, cable members 52 and 54) comprises a cable.

As to Claim 15, Heaton discloses an apparatus (Figure 1, wall board taping apparatus 10) for applying tape from a roll (Figure 2, roll 44) to a seam between abutting sheets of wall board (Figure 2, wall board 50) comprising a frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) for rotatably supporting a roll of tape, the frame having an opening (Figure 1, frame member 16) through which tape may be dispensed from the roll; a roller (Figure 1, press roller 22) carried by the frame adjacent the opening for pressing tape dispensed through the opening from a roll rotatably

supported by the frame against a seam between abutting sheets of wall board; a brake (Figure 1, brake member 48) supported by the frame for applying a braking force to a roll of tape rotatably supported by the frame, thereby preventing tape from being dispensed through the opening from the roll; an elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) connected to the frame; and an actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) connected to the elongated handle for remotely actuating the brake.

As to Claim 29, Heaton discloses a method of applying material from a roll (Figure 2, roll 44) to a surface (Figure 2, wall board 50) comprising the steps of loading a roll of material into a dispensing frame (Figure 1, wall board taping apparatus 10) mounted on an elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) and having an opening (Figure 1, frame member 16) and a pressing roller (Figure 1, press roller 22); feeding an end of the material from the roll through the frame opening; using the handle and the pressing roller, pressing the end of the material against the surface; using the handle and pressing roller, moving the frame along the surface to dispense the material from the roll through the frame opening and apply the material over the surface; remotely applying a braking force to the material roll from a location on the handle opposite the frame to prevent material from being dispensed from the roll (column 2, lines 7-12 and 33-52).

As to Claim 31, Heaton discloses a method wherein the material is tape and the surface is a seam between abutting sheets of wallboard (column 2, lines 9-12).

7. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-12, 15, 18-20, 22-26, 29, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heaton (US 4,452,663) in view of Thompson et al. (US 5,792,310). As to Claim 1, Heaton discloses an apparatus (Figure 1, wall board taping apparatus 10) for applying a material from a roll (Figure 1, roll 44) to a surface (Figure 2, wall board 50)

comprising a frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) for rotatably supporting a roll of material, the frame (Figure 1, frame member 16) having an opening through which material may be dispensed from the roll; a roller (Figure 1, press roller 22) carried by the frame adjacent the opening for pressing material dispensed through the opening from a roll rotatably supported by the frame against the surface; a brake (Figure 1, brake member 48) supported by the frame for applying a braking force to a roll of material rotatably supported by the frame, thereby preventing material from being dispensed through the opening from the roll; an elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) connected to the frame; and an actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) connected to the elongated handle for remotely actuating the brake.

As to Claims 4 and 18, Heaton discloses an apparatus which includes a shaft (Figure 1, shaft 46) carried by the frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) for rotatably supporting a roll of tape (Figure 1, roll 44).

As to Claims 5 and 19, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the frame includes substantially parallel sidewalls (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) defining a space within which the shaft (Figure 1, shaft 46) and the roll (Figure 2, roll 44) are carried.

As to Claims 6 and 20, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the space defines a pathway for material to move from a roll (Figure 1, roll 44) rotatably supported by the frame to the opening for dispensing (Figure 1, frame member 16).

As to Claims 8 and 22, Heaton does not disclose an apparatus wherein the brake applies a braking force to a side of a roll of material rotatably supported by the frame. It is well known and conventional in the tape dispenser art, as disclosed by Thompson et al. (Figure 1, brake element 48), to provide a brake which applies a braking force to a side of a roll of tape rotatably

supported by the frame to control the dispensation of the tape. It would have been readily apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that a braking element which acts on the side of the tape roll is functionally equivalent to a braking element which acts on the tape subsequent to its separation from the roll. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Heaton to include a braking element which applies braking force to a side of a roll of material rotatably supported by the frame as suggested by Thompson et al. to control the dispensation of the material; a braking element acting on the side of the tape roll being functionally equivalent to a braking element which acts on the tape subsequent to its separation from the roll.

As to Claims 9 and 23, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) is connected to the frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) at one of its ends and is connected to the actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) adjacent another of its ends.

As to Claims 10 and 24, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) comprises a lever pivotally connected to the elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) opposite the frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) and a linkage (Figure 1, cable members 52 and 54) connecting the lever to the brake (Figure 1, brake member 48).

As to Claims 11 and 25, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the elongated handle (Figure 2, handle 20) is tubular and the linkage (Figure 1, cable members 52 and 54) includes an elongated link connected to the lever and extending through at least a substantial portion of the elongated handle.

As to Claims 12 and 26, Heaton discloses an apparatus wherein the elongated link (Figure 1, cable members 52 and 54) comprises a cable.

As to Claim 15, Heaton discloses an apparatus (Figure 1, wall board taping apparatus 10) for applying tape from a roll (Figure 2, roll 44) to a seam between abutting sheets of wall board (Figure 2, wall board 50) comprising a frame (Figure 1, frame members 12 and 14) for rotatably supporting a roll of tape, the frame having an opening (Figure 1, frame member 16) through which tape may be dispensed from the roll; a roller (Figure 1, press roller 22) carried by the frame adjacent the opening for pressing tape dispensed through the opening from a roll rotatably supported by the frame against a seam between abutting sheets of wall board; a brake (Figure 1, brake member 48) supported by the frame for applying a braking force to a roll of tape rotatably supported by the frame, thereby preventing tape from being dispensed through the opening from the roll; an elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) connected to the frame; and an actuator (Figure 1, trigger 58) connected to the elongated handle for remotely actuating the brake.

As to Claim 29, Heaton discloses a method of applying material from a roll (Figure 2, roll 44) to a surface (Figure 2, wall board 50) comprising the steps of loading a roll of material into a dispensing frame (Figure 1, wall board taping apparatus 10) mounted on an elongated handle (Figure 1, handle 20) and having an opening (Figure 1, frame member 16) and a pressing roller (Figure 1, press roller 22); feeding an end of the material from the roll through the frame opening; using the handle and the pressing roller, pressing the end of the material against the surface; using the handle and pressing roller, moving the frame along the surface to dispense the material from the roll through the frame opening and apply the material over the surface; remotely applying a braking force to the material roll from a location on the handle opposite the frame to prevent material from being dispensed from the roll (column 2, lines 7-12 and 33-52).

As to Claim 31, Heaton discloses a method wherein the material is tape and the surface is a seam between abutting sheets of wallboard (column 2, lines 9-12).

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl N Hawkins whose telephone number is (571) 272-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher A Fiorilla can be reached on (517) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheryl N. Hawkins
October 18, 2004

CHRIS FIORILLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
AU 1734